CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating with a user of a display screen comprising:

proportionally decreasing brightness of a first area on the display screen; and

increasing the brightness of a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount.

2. A method of Claim 1 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

3. A method of Claim 1 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

4. A method of Claim 1 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

5. A method of Claim 1 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location within the first area.

6. A method of Claim 1 wherein said proportionally decreasing and increasing communicates an abnormal situation.

7. A method of communicating with a viewer of a multi-component color display screen comprising:

proportionally decreasing the brightness of a color component within a first area on the display screen; and

increasing the brightness of the color component within a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount.

8. A method of Claim 7 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

9. A method of Claim 7 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

10. A method of Claim 7 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

11. A method of Claim 7 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location for the color component within the first area.

12. A method of Claim 7 wherein said steps of proportionally decreasing and increasing communicates an abnormal situation.

13. System communication device comprising

a display screen, and

a computing device coupled to the display screen, the computing device, in response to an event, proportionally decreasing the brightness of a first area on the display screen and increasing the brightness of a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount.

14. A device of Claim 13 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message.

15. A device of Claim 13 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message.

16. A device of Claim 13 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message.

17. A device of Claim 13 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location within the first area.

18. A device of Claim 13 wherein the event is an abnormal situation.

19. A device of Claim 13 wherein the display screen is a multi-component color display, and the computing device, in response to an event, proportionally decreases the brightness of a color component within the first area on the display screen and increases the brightness of the color component within a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount, such that a translucent film overlays original contents of the screen display at the time of the event such that the original contents remain visible.

20. A device of Claim 19 wherein the translucent film is tinted to a predetermined color signifying system status.